

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07

NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6444

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTREAL 1102

FM USREP ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO - ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

REF: A) STATE 148585 B) MONTREAL 1018

1. LEBANON REP HAS DEPARTED MONTREAL FOR SIX WEEKS TO CONSULT WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AND CONFIRM CONCURRENCE OF OTHER ARAB STATES REGARDING KOTAITE NOMINATION. HE AND OTHER TWO ARAB STATES ON COUNCIL (EGYPT, AND MOROCCO WHICH ALSO REPRESENTS ALGERIA AND TUNISIA) ARE AGREED TO SUPPORT KOTAITE. FORMAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR KOTAITE AS CANDIDATE WILL COME FROM GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON LAST HALF JULY.

2. DURING FRANK INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA, US REP LEARNED THAT USSR REP PERSONALLY PREPARED SUPPORT KOTAITE BUT HAS TOLD LEBANON HE CANNOT GET GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT UNTIL FORMAL CANDIDACY DECLARED. USSR IMMEDIATELY MOVED TO DISCUSSIONS OF SECRETARY GENERALSHIP AS BEING AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. NO ONE IN GROUP WAS AWARE OF ANY NAME UNDER CONSIDERATION AS A SERIOUS CANDIDATE. THEY FEEL THAT NEW SEC GEN MUST HAVE SOME TECHNICAL ORIENTATION
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AND IN THIS CONNECTION SOVIET REP SAID THAT HE WILL INSIST ON

FILLING POSITION OF DIRECTOR BUREAU ADMINISTRATION (WHICH KOTAITE HAS DELIBERATELY LEFT VACANT). SOVIET REP SAID THAT THEY HAVE THREE EXCELLENT CANDIDATES WHO CAN GIVE COMPETENT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TO A TECHNICALLY ORIENTED SECGEN. USREP POINTED OUT THAT DIRECTOR FINANCE, COLLINS (US) IS EXCELLENT FINANCIAL ADVISER BUT BECAUSE OF AGE WILL BE LEAVING IN NEXT COUPLE YEARS. SOVIET REP RESPONDED THAT IF COLLINS WAS SO GOOD HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REDUCE BUDGET OF ICAO. USREP POINTED OUT THAT BUDGET DECISIONS WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECGEN AS WAS FILLING DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION POSITION.

3. LATER ALONE, SOVIET REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S FIRST POSITION WAS TO RETAIN BINAGHI UNTIL ASSEMBLY, AND ASKED IF US REP WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM TO VISIT BINAGHI MAKING A STRONG PLEA FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RESIGNATION. FYI: USREP SEES INDICATIONS THAT SEVERAL COUNCIL REPS HAVE ONLY NOW DISCOVERED WHAT BINAGHI DID TO THEM WHEN HE CHOSE TO RUN AGAIN AT FALL 74 ASSEMBLY AND RESIGN LATER BETWEEN TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLIES. IN OPINION USREP, SOVIET REP MAY SUSPECT THAT US WAS PARTY TO THIS PLANNING AND MAY BE CALLING OUR BLUFF BY ASKING US TO JOIN HIM IN APPEAL TO BINAGHI. END FYI. US REP RESPONDED THAT US WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE BINAGHI IN ICAO FOR AS LONG AS HE COULD STAY AND THEREFORE WOULD SEEK PERMISSION TO MAKE SPECIAL PLEA TOGETHER WITH SOVIET REP. HOWEVER, US REP SAID THAT THERE IS NO WAY BINAGHI'S MIND CAN BE CHANGED.

ACTION: WOULD DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO USREP ACCOMPANYING SOVIET REP IN PLEA TO BINAGHI WEEK OF JULY 7, AS TACTIC?

4. REFTEL MENTIONS HAMMARSKJOLD OF IATA AS ALTERNATE CANDIDATE. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY HE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE CONSIDERED EVEN IF HE WERE INTERESTED (WHICH HE HAS EVERY REASON NOT TO BE): A) HIS SALARY, OTHER REMUNERATIONS, AND BENEFITS ARE FAR IN EXCESS OF THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT OF ICAO COUNCIL; B) HE IS PUBLIC RELATIONS ORIENTED WHICH ICAO IS NOT AND SHOULD NOT BECOME; C) HIS PERSONAL ORIENTATION IS OUTGOING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ORIENTED, WHILE THE ICAO PRESIDENT MUST BE INWARD-LOOKING AS HE COORDINATES A SMALL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN VERY BROAD AREAS OF OVERALL SAFETY, ECONOMICS AND SECURITY; D) HAMMARSKJOLD AND KOTAITE COULD NOT WORK TOGETHER AND WITHIN SHORT PERIOD EITHER

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SECGEN WOULD RESIGN OR SERIOUS BREACH WOULD DEVELOP BETWEEN COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT WHICH TO DATE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED. FYI. REF PARA 5 REFTEL US REP FEELS SURE THAT IF ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATE BECAME AVAILABLE FOR PRESIDENCY SECGEN WOULD REMAIN IN PRESENT POSITION. HOWEVER, HAMMARSKJOLD-TYPE CANDIDATE WOULD BRING TO ICAO, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT OPERATING APPROACH WHICH WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR ADJUSTMENT ON PART OF SECGEN AND WHOLE ORGANIZATION; E) PUTTING ASIDE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, USREP

SERIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IATA COULD BE ELECTED BECAUSE OF WHAT WOULD BE VIEWED BY MANY COUNCIL REPS AS POSSIBLE "CONFLICT OF INTEREST", AND BY THE LDC REPS (ASSISTED BY PRC AND POSSIBLY USSR WHO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE INFLUENCE OF "BIG AIRLINES" AND THE AIRLINES OF THE MAJOR AVIATION STATES AND THE INFLUENCE THEY ARE CONSTANTLY BRINGING TO BEAR UPON ICAO AND ITS DEMANDS ON DEVELOPING NATIONS, (SEE MONTREAL 1053 AS EXAMPLE). FOR THESE REASONS AND OTHERS HAMMARSKJOLD WOULD NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE IN BINAGHI'S VIEW.

5. OTHER NAMES WHICH HAVE COME UP AND BEEN DISCARDED ARE TWO AUSTRALIANS (BOTH OF WHICH ARE TOO OLD - LATE 50'S); KARNØ BARKAH (INDONESIA COUNCIL REP) WHO IS CONSIDERED MUCH TOO WEAK TO HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST BUREAU DIRECTORS IN THE SECRETARIAT OR STRONG MEMBERS ON COUNCIL); OLLASSA (COLORFUL COUNCIL REP FROM CONGO FOR 10 YEARS) WHO WROTE FRENCH REP RE SECGENERALSHIP BUT WAS IMMEDIATELY DISCOURAGED FROM PUSHING MATTER; DIALLO (FORMER COUNCIL REP SENEGAL) WHO IT APPEARS IS NOT BEING ENCOURAGED BY CURRENT SENEGAL REP WHO GIVES EVERY INDICATION OF SUPPORTING KOTAITE FOR PRESIDENCY AND OF NOT PURSUING DIALLO RUMORS FOR EITHER POST. RE PARA 2, US REP WISHES POINT OUT THAT IF NEW SEC GEN IS COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR WE AND HE WILL HAVE GOOD REASON TO CONTINUE LEAVING VACANT THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION POSITION TO STALL SOVIET INTEREST.

6. MOST COUNCIL REPS ARE GOING TO CAPITALS THIS WEEK AND WILL RETURN MONTREAL IN TIME PARTICIPATE IN VANCOUVER AIR SHOW TRIP HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WEEK AUGUST 4. THAT WEEK WILL GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO ASCERTAIN JULY DEVELOPMENTS AND EVALUATE REACTION TO FORMAL CANDIDACY KOTAITE.
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NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTREAL 1102

7. CERTAIN PRACTICAL ASPECTS MUST BE CONSIDERED REGARDING THE TWO POSITIONS: A) PRESIDENCY MAY NOT BE LATIN AMERICAN BECAUSE ARGENTINA HAS BEEN IN CHAIR FOR 15 YEARS; B) BOTH POSITIONS SHOULD NOT BE FROM SAME REGION NOR SAME LANGUAGE GROUP; C) LEBANON (AT LEAST) HAS MADE IT POINT TO FIND OUT WHICH COUNTRIES HOLD TOP POSITIONS IN OTHER IO ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL USE THAT AS AN ARGUMENT SHOULD CANDIDATES FROM THOSE SAME COUNTRIES BY NOMINATED IN ICAO; C) OBVIOUSLY ARABS COULD NOT PROVIDE A SEC GEN IF KOTAITE WENT INTO THE PRESIDENCY; E) THEREFORE WITH LATIN AMERICANS AND THE ARAB WORLD OUT, AND WITH THE US AND WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES UNDOUBTEDLY LACKING THE SUPPORT IN COUNCIL FOR THE PRESIDENCY, REGIONAL POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITED TO AFRICA (WHICH COUNCIL, AT THIS JUNCTURE, IS NOT READY TO ACCEPT), THE SOVIET UNION (WHICH SIMILARLY COUNCIL COULD NOT AGREE ON AND WHICH ADMITTEDLY STILL HAS LANGUAGE PROBLEMS), ASIA AND AUSTRALIA (WITH JAPAN CONTINUING TO BE INADEQUATE IN THE LANGUAGES OF ICAO, AND AUSTRALIA BEING NOT ACCEPTABLE TO LEBANON BECAUSE THEY NOW HOLD THE DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP IN ANOTHER IO), AND CANADA. THIS CRUDE ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT LIKELY SOURCES FOR PRESIDENT AND SEC GENERALSHIP ARE CANADA, SOUTH EAST ASIA, AND EASTERN EUROPE. USREP DOES NOT MEAN TO SAY THAT IF AN OUTSTANDING AND PARTICULARLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE BECOMES AVAILABLE FROM ANY REGION HE WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIS NOMINATION IF HE OVERCAME MOST OF THE ABOVE QUALIFIERS. USREP DOES NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDER THAT CANADA WOULD BE A GOOD SOURCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE US, SINCE 80 PERCENT OF THE PERSONNEL IN ICAO ARE CANADIANS. WORKING UNDER A CANADIAN SEC GEN THEY MIGHT MAKE THEM EVEN MORE DEMANDING THAN THEY ARE ALREADY (SEE MONTREAL 1024 AND CANADIAN REPS ATTITUDE TOWARD CANADIANS IN SECRETARIAT).

8. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL A) MOROCCO REP SO FAR IS NOT PURSUING REORGANIZATION IDEA BUT HE IS LEAVING FOR MOROCCO TODAY AND MAY RETURN WITH MORE FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS PRO OR CON.

9. FYI. MR. HO THE PRC REP UNDERWENT MAJOR SURGERY AND COMPLICATIONS LAST WEEK AND MAY NOT BE RETURNING FOR AWHILE. DEPENDING ON OUTCOME, PRC MAY OR MAY NOT FIRM UP PROPOSAL ON POLICY REVIEW AND PUSH PRESIDENT COUNCIL DURING BRIEF SUMMER RECESS.

10. REGARDING QUESTIONS IN PARA 5 REFTTEL A, MOST ARE ANSWERED

ABOVE. HOWEVER, US REP SUGGESTS SOME WASHINGTON BRAINSTORMING WITH RESPECT TO SECGEN CANDIDATES FROM ONE OF GEOGRAPHIC AREAS AND LANGUAGE GROUPS SUGGESTED ABOVE WHO WOULD BE AT LEAST TECHNICAL AVIATION ORIENTED, WITH MANAGERIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY, AND/OR KNOWLEDGE OF ICAO. FOR EXAMPLE A DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION WHO HAS BEEN COUNCIL MEMBER, COMMISSIONER, OR AT LEAST DELEGATE TO ICAO MEETINGS; OR A MANAGING DIRECTOR OR VP/ ADMINISTRATION OF AN AIRLINE, WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN ICAO MEETINGS; OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO HAS CHAIRED ICAO COMMITTEES OR OTHER MEETINGS, ETC. WE SHOULD AVOID HARD HITTING, EFFICIENT, BUSINESS TYPE WHO WOULD QUICKLY BECOME FRUSTRATED AND WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO THE MULTI-NATIONAL NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION AND IT'S PEOPLE.

11. IN OPINION USREP, FOLLOWING FORMAL FILING BY LEBANON, COUNCIL WILL ELECT KOTAITE AS PRESIDENT. CANDIDATES FOR SECGENERAL-SHIP WILL HAVE TO BE FORTHCOMING EARLY TO BECOME A PART OF PACKAGE ARRANGEMENT WHICH ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS FEEL MUST BE APPROACH TO THESE TWO POSITIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION LAW, ELECTION CANDIDATES, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONTRE01102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750226-0471
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975064/aaaaacuy.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 148585, 75 MONTREAL 1018
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICAO - ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006